

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 11 and 15 were originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Responsive to this, claims 11 and 15 are amended according to the Examiner's instruction and suggestion. Therefore, it is believed that, by the amendments, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should be removed.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 was originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Neel, Haynes, Triplett et al. or Mathers.

However, the Examiner has pointed out that claims 2-10, 12-14 and 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In addition, the Examiner has pointed out that claims 11 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

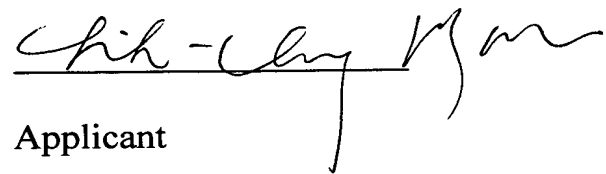
Responsive to this, claim 2 is deleted, and claim 1 is amended which is substantially the combination of original claims 1 and 2 so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art reference cited by the Examiner. In addition, claims 11 and 15 have been amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action.

Accordingly, by the amendments, it is believed that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn, and the amended claim 1 should be allowable.

It is further submitted that the claims 3-17 should be allowable as they are dependent upon the amended claim 1 which is believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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